

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2013

To award posthumously a congressional gold medal to Thurgood Marshall.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 2009

Mr. PAYNE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award posthumously a congressional gold medal to
Thurgood Marshall.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) Thurgood Marshall, the grandson of a slave,
6 was born in Baltimore, Maryland on July 2, 1908.

7 (2) In his youth, Thurgood Marshall developed
8 an interest in the Constitution and the rule of law.

9 (3) Despite graduating from Lincoln University
10 in Pennsylvania in 1930 with honors, Thurgood
11 Marshall was denied acceptance at the all-White

1 University of Maryland Law School because he was
2 an African-American.

3 (4) Thurgood Marshall instead attended law
4 school at Howard University, the country's most
5 prominent black university, and graduated first in
6 his class in 1933.

7 (5) From 1940 to 1961, Thurgood Marshall
8 served as the legal director of the National Associa-
9 tion for the Advancement of Colored People
10 (NAACP).

11 (6) Beginning with the case of *Chambers v.*
12 *Florida* in 1940, Thurgood Marshall argued 32 cases
13 before the Supreme Court and won 29 of them,
14 earning more Supreme Court victories than any
15 other individual.

16 (7) Under the leadership of Thurgood Marshall,
17 the NAACP fought to abolish segregation in schools
18 and challenged laws that discriminated against Afri-
19 can-Americans.

20 (8) In 1954, Thurgood Marshall argued *Brown*
21 *v. Board of Education* before the Supreme Court, a
22 case which resulted in the famous decision that de-
23 clared racial segregation in public schools unconsti-
24 tutional, overturning the 1896 decision in *Plessy v.*
25 *Ferguson*.

1 (9) In 1961, President John F. Kennedy ap-
2 pointed Thurgood Marshall to the United States
3 Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit despite heavy
4 opposition from many southern Senators.

5 (10) Thurgood Marshall served on the United
6 States Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit from
7 1961–1965, during which time he wrote 112 opin-
8 ions, none of which was overturned on appeal.

9 (11) In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson ap-
10 pointed Thurgood Marshall to the position of Solie-
11 itor General, a post he held from 1965–1967.

12 (12) In 1967, President Johnson appointed
13 Thurgood Marshall as the first African-American
14 Justice to serve on the Supreme Court.

15 (13) During the 24 years he served on the Su-
16 preme Court, Thurgood Marshall promoted affirma-
17 tive action and sought protection for the rights of all
18 Americans, continuing to support integration but
19 also championing the rights of women, children,
20 prisoners, and the homeless.

21 (14) Thurgood Marshall died on January 24,
22 1993, at the age of 84.

23 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

24 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
25 the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem-

1 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
2 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold
3 medal of appropriate design, to the family of Thurgood
4 Marshall, in recognition of the contributions of Thurgood
5 Marshall to the Nation.

6 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
7 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
8 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
9 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
10 devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Sec-
11 retary.

12 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

13 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
14 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2
15 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at
16 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
17 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
18 and the cost of the gold medal.

19 **SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

20 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under
21 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
22 of title 31, United States Code.

23 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
24 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
25 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
2 **SALE.**

3 (a) **AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.**—There is
4 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
5 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-
6 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant
7 to this Act.

8 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the
9 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
10 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
11 Enterprise Fund.

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